

Your Haslemere

The Newsletter of The Haslemere Society Spring 2021

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Chairman's Welcome

Chris Harrison



Welcome to our spring 2021 newsletter.

As I write, the sun is shining and our town is emerging, we hope for the last time, from the longest lockdown since the onset of the COVID pandemic. In these circumstances, it seems appropriate that the first article in our newsletter is a report of the recent panel discussion which I hosted in which community members shared an optimistic perspective on the prospects for our community and life in the town.

Walking into Haslemere this morning, passing the cherry tree that the Society has planted in West Street with support from Transform Landscapes, it was good to see the High Street bustling, many shopfronts smartened up and some new entrants despite the departure of some long-standing retailers such as Lloyds Chemist. The former NatWest Bank is under offer and we can look forward to an Albanian restaurant in the former Barclays Bank. Has anyone sampled Albanian food? I can't wait.

The future of The Georgian Hotel has been a source of division amongst members, but I hope that all will share my excitement that the Georgian building is undergoing much needed refurbishment, seemingly to a high standard and is, we understand to be operated by Coppa Club whose 7 existing venues attract outstanding reviews. Our town is changing but there is much reason to believe that it will soon be thriving.

Continuing with the theme of change, Sonja Dullaway updates us on the neighbourhood plan and Liz Burton updates us on the Biodiversity project, a perfect segue into our editor's report on the arrival of The Beavers: location as yet secret!! These articles will remind readers that our focus is both on preserving the beauty of our town and the wonderful countryside that surrounds it.

Turning to our heritage, my wife Shirley continues her lost sons' series, I dip into the archives, not quite as planned, and our president emeritus reminds us of the coup he pulled off when "Any Questions" came to town.

We continue with our updates on what is now known as Haslemere Community Station and Jane Stopford, our trustee and former Chairman visits The Hunter Centre as the latest in our series on other organisations in the town.

Final thanks to Di Keeley for an excellent compilation of the amazing things going on in the town, not least The Haslemere Festival for which we provide full details. The only thing missing is our Summer Party at The museum on 25th June to which invites will be sent in May.

I end as I began. Our town is thriving despite everything we have been through.

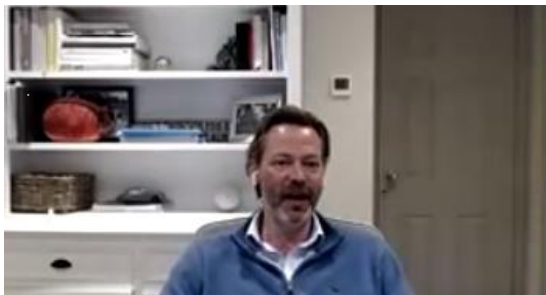
Haslemere emerges from Lockdown.

By Gareth David

As life in our town gradually begins a return to normality, our spring meeting on 16 April asked four members of the community to discuss their experiences of life in Lockdown and the lessons they had learned from it.

For those who may have been unable to join us for the meeting, this is a summary of the comments made by our panellists, along with the experiences of our resident cartoonist Simon Mackie on working in a local COVID-19 response centre.

Nathan Luckas - Founding Partner of Hawkley Partners



Nathan graduated in 1999 and subsequently moved into headhunting within financial services. He has over 20 years' executive search experience, specifically covering M&A within investment banking and runs a small boutique headhunting firm. Nathan moved to Haslemere in 2010 and until last year commuted into the City daily.

"For the past 12 years I have been commuting to the City five days a week. My plans have now somewhat changed and I am Haslemere-based, working from home up to three days a week. That is partly because the stigma of not appearing in the office where you are based and being physically in an office has changed post-Lockdown.

"There is much greater acceptance that people will be based in different locations and don't need to be in the city five days a week. In terms of what that means for Haslemere, I would imagine that there's going to be a much larger contingent of people that will now want to be out and about during the day to break up their days, be that sports or going out for a bit to eat. Hopefully that will start to transform areas like the High Street.

"I noticed in the last couple of days that train operators are talking about introducing a carnet-style of ticketing where people will be able to buy books of five return tickets to London that will be cheaper than the standard fare. But it doesn't look like being great value, because if you go up more than three days a week, it is still cheaper to buy a weekly season ticket."

Toby Miller – Partner running Haslemere branch of Henry Adams



Toby has been married to his wife (a nurse) for 15 years and they have three children at school in the Surrey area. Toby has been an estate agent for 25 years and has been in Haslemere for 5 years creating one of the leading estate agents in the area.

"We have seen a great migration of people wanting to live in Haslemere and move from London. The uptake over the past eight months has been phenomenal and the market locally has been manic throughout the pandemic and demand for areas such as where we are has been incredible.

"I think it is for a multitude of reasons. Much of what Nathan was suggesting about the work/life balance that Haslemere offers, the fact that people need to have good access to the City, but don't necessarily need to go in every single day.

"Now those people can look at Haslemere and think what a great place it is to be, with a 48-minute train journey to Waterloo if you need to be there, but we still have a vibrant town with a coffee shop culture and great schools.

"We have been very lucky over the past year in that demand has been greater than ever, which shows what a diverse town Haslemere is. It offers so much for those that want to be close to the countryside, but still don't want to be a million miles from civilisation.

"During the pandemic we have seen people who might have been living in an apartment in Battersea without any garden space, for example, and had enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle deciding over the weeks of Lockdown to accelerate a move. The floodgates have opened on people moving down to Haslemere from London."

Howard Bicknell - General Manager, Haslemere Hall



Howard was born in Haslemere and worked here until 1990 when he went away to work overseas for six months but did not come home for 20 years. He enjoys being both on and off-stage and directing musicals and being part of the pantomime family.

"Social distancing is one of our biggest issues with the Hall. We have 330 seats but during social distancing we only have 150 seats, so there is lots of space and the seats are very comfortable and lots of people have requested that we keep this layout in the future. We would love to, but we simply can't afford to!

"We need to take around £600 a day to operate, but with closed doors and by not paying staff then we can cut costs and because the building belongs to us we do not have to worry about running costs. But opening up and being there and trying to re-start, only to be told we have to close again involves costs and it has been very tough.

"On the positive side, we are re-opening this time with caution, with a small programme ahead that is all bookable on the website, including events during the Haslemere Festival towards the end of May, which we are all very excited about.

"As far as the cinema is concerned, people are asking when we will re-open. The Government is allowing cinemas to open on 17 May, however there isn't a huge amount of films that have been made in the past year, so we don't have a huge stock to show, although we do have a number that we had been due to screen around Christmas, which we will now be showing.

"In terms of day-time use, we have been part of Haslemere Hospital for the past year, and have been a community store every Wednesday. So there have been things going on, we didn't just shut up the shop and leave. Surrey Theatre Academy has just re-started and it has been great to have the Hall in use from 9.00am to 4.00pm every day.

"We are very lucky to have received a grant of £49,000 from the Arts Council just before Christmas, so we are now thanking everyone involved. It is a great help, but in no way does it fix the whole of the losses we have sustained, so we are still fund raising in a number of ways."

John Hughes-Chamberlain – Founder/Managing Director: Chamberlain Music



John founded Chamberlain Music in Wey Hill 30 years ago and the business has never looked back. With a huge range of musical instruments and accessories and house specialist sheet music departments under one roof, today the business is one of the largest importers of pianos in the country, with a national and international reputation.

"We have been in Weyhill since 1990 and started life as a retail shop but have developed as an internet company as well and in the last year also as a "click and collect" company. Most of our nearly 40 staff now work from home and I suspect that a number of them will remain working at home as result of the pandemic, which has brought forward a more progressive way of working which has been very successful.

"I spent most of today (16 April) on Zoom calls, while we were launching a new website and it is remarkable how effective it was – far easier than if we had all been in the same office!

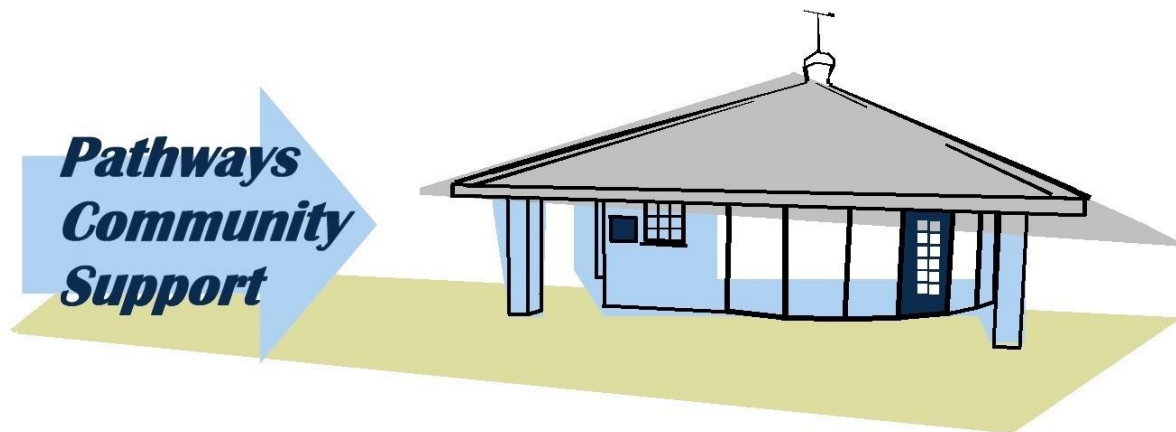
"My view of the future is that there could be something of a musical and arts renaissance as we emerge from the pandemic. Everyone I talk to at schools and individual musicians are terribly excited about getting out and putting on events and shows. Howard mentioned a bright future – I'm not sure when it is going to come, and it might not necessarily be this autumn, but the indication from schools is that they are terribly keen on putting on new events.

"During our first week of re-opening we have become an appointments company, and it was interesting to see how many people are making an intentional effort to make an appointment and not simply turning up. We have certainly seen a busy start to trading."

Simon Mackie – volunteer at Pathways Community Support Centre

"These are unprecedented times where increasingly large numbers of our community need benefit advice, help for job seeking and well-being support. Pathways Community Support Centre is a Covid Response hub for Haslemere-area residents who find it difficult to get into Guildford Job Centre, which is 15 miles away from Haslemere, or to access other support services that usually operate at some distance from the town.

"Councillor Claire Matthes first approached full council with the project proposal in July 2020 when it became clear that the effects of the pandemic were set to reverberate for quite some time.



"It was a Haslemere Town Council initiative, in partnership with Waverley Borough Council, has benefitted from generous additional funding from Care in Haslemere and the Shottermill Great War Memorial Fund, as well as money from County Councillor Nikki Barton's Members Allocation. As a representative of the DWP, I have been giving support in getting the Centre operational.

"Pathways is based in the George Denyer pavilion; a building that has been unused for 15 years, but is a congenial venue and in a central location. Support will be given to those who would find it difficult to access the Guildford Job Centre because of travel costs, health issues or for those who don't have access to a PC.

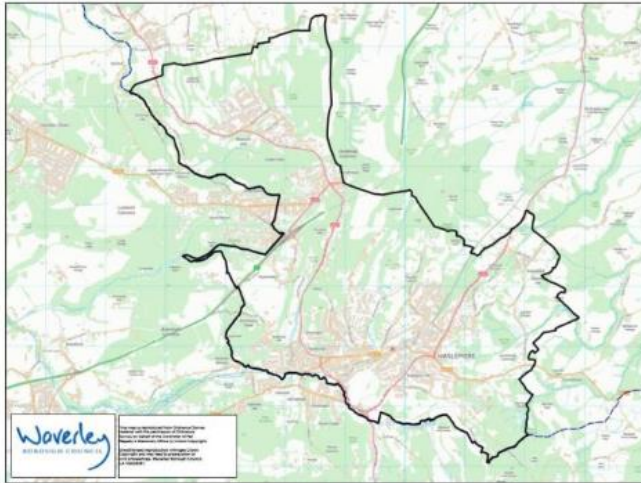
"Further support will be given for Universal Credit Applications, Job Searching, Careers Advice and Guidance/CVs (NCS), Support to disabled job seekers, Apprenticeships for 18-24 year olds/Kick Start, Disability and Mental Health (Richmond Fellowship/Welcome Project) and Food bank direction."

Pathways Community Support can be found online at <https://haslemeretc.org/haslemere-community-store/pathways-community-support/>

Our Neighbourhood Plan: what next?

By Sonja Dullaway

The Plan Area



The Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan (the “Plan”) went out to Regulation 14 Consultation in 2020. This invited responses to the draft Plan from residents of, and businesses operating in, the Plan area. Following the consultation and subsequent amendments to the Plan, it was adopted by Haslemere Town Council and then passed to Waverley Borough Council.

WBC put it out for Regulation 16 Consultation earlier this year (5 February to 19 March). This invited comment from residents and businesses throughout the Waverley area. The Haslemere Society responded to both the Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 consultations and you can find those documents on our website.

What happens now?

Following the Regulation 16 Consultation, the Plan will be submitted to an Independent Examiner for review against a series of ‘basic conditions’, which the Plan must meet. Any comments submitted to the Regulation 16 Consultation will be submitted to the Examiner and will be made publicly available.

If it passes the Examiner, the Plan will then be put out to a referendum – the Examiner will decide whether the voting area should be the Haslemere Plan area only or a wider area (if the plan is likely to have wider impacts). The question that will be asked is “Do you want Waverley Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Haslemere to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

Anyone on the electoral register will be entitled to vote and if more than half the votes cast are in favour, the Plan is adopted and becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area. This means that local planning authorities and planning inspectors considering planning applications or appeals must make their decisions in accordance with the policies of the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Note that, following the Regulation 14 Consultation last year, the Plan already has the status of a 'material consideration' for relevant planning applications.

Farnham and Godalming & Farncombe already have Neighbourhood Plans in place and a number of other local areas are developing them. The Plan for Witley is awaiting the final stage, the referendum, the Chiddingfold Plan is under examination and the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan is going through its Regulation 16 consultation.

Other planning documents

If adopted, the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan will sit in the planning requirements below the Waverley Borough Council Local Plan. This is in two parts. The Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) sets out the Council's plans for delivering its vision for development in Waverley, including meeting the government-imposed housing requirement, up to 2032. The LPP1, which replaced a number of the policies in the Local Plan 2002, was adopted in 2018 and is already in force.

The Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) allocates the sites needed to meet the development strategy outlined in LPP1 and sets out more detailed policies. It went out for its Regulation 19 Consultation over Christmas. The Haslemere Society responded to this consultation – you can find our response in the planning section of our website.

WBC is now reviewing the consultation responses and making any required amendments to the LPP2. Once this is done, the document will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. The proposed date for this is April 2021 and WBC hopes that the LPP2 will be adopted in January or February 2022.

Inevitably, the allocation of sites to meet the required housing numbers (990 dwellings in Haslemere between 2012 and 2032) is a contentious issue. People have different views about whether planners should allocate greenfield or AONB land or build to higher densities within the existing built area.

Members may recall that we have sent emails highlighting the consultations for both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan Part 2, to ensure that no-one misses their chance to have a say on these important matters.

Reviving biodiversity

By Liz Burton, Haslemere Vision

State of Nature Reports highlight the UK as one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and biodiversity in Surrey shows sharper declines than most. Almost all of the land surrounding our beautiful area has some form of 'green' protection and there are two large Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) on our borders. BOAs identify where the greatest opportunities for habitat creation and restoration lie, enabling resources to be focussed where they will have the greatest positive impact.

The Haslemere Ecological Network takes this approach a step further. It identifies and (post a successful Neighbourhood Plan referendum) will protect wildlife corridors between the BOAs and 44 other sites of varying National and Local significance. We are incredibly grateful for the support that made this work possible - The Haslemere Society deserves special mention here, but also Haslemere Town Council, the Lob's Charity and CPRE Surrey. With wildlife corridors now identified, volunteers are taking steps to monitor key species present and to engage with National and local organisations to improve habitats.

Previous newsletters outlined plans to install a chain of 50 dormouse boxes across Grayswood in partnership with local landowners and the Surrey Dormouse Group (www.surreydormousegroup.org.uk). Installation will focus on dense woody vegetation, mindful that these secretive little creatures rarely descend to ground level (other than to hibernate) and require prickly cover between them and predators at all times. Dormouse populations will be assessed using the National Dormice Monitoring Programme protocol.



The habitats and woody species close to each box will also be noted. Boxes will be monitored regularly April to Nov 2021 and dormice preferences recorded. This will inform good practise landscape design and advice for the community on how to encourage this seriously endangered species locally. The survey will continue until spring 2022 with at least one 'show and tell' session to Grayswood Forest School planned.

Monitoring sections of local river corridors continues, with three foot-print rafts being checked monthly until at least August 2021. To date mink, rats, domestic cat and small mammals have been observed. The key period for detecting otters is early spring, when they often head upstream towards river sources. Information on all species present is useful however, as this will guide habitat improvements.



Ponds are also key corridors and are among the richest habitats in the garden, supporting specialist wildlife and enabling species to access regions which would otherwise be cut off. Over the past century, nearly 70% of UK ponds have been lost from our Countryside, so garden ponds have increased in importance.

The 'In search of water dragons' project piloted in 2020 provided few completed surveys but many useful insights and we'd like to thank all participants. Smooth and palmate newts were sighted but no Great Crested Newts. It is proposed to repeat the survey in a more focused way next year; in areas of highest pond density and without lockdown standing in the way of hands-on support.

Whilst we are blessed with an abundance of habitats, there are many weak spots to be solved with strategic planting. In addition, many green spaces in the area could contribute with a little planting, some re-wilding, or by adapting them to be more multi-functional. We plan to start with simple planting projects before consulting the public on how to improve shared spaces.

The newly acquired public land below Sun Brow seems a fantastic opportunity for the newly vaccinated to drag along the kids and grandkids for some healthful outdoor digging and we'll reach out with firmer plans if and when they take shape.

Reversing biodiversity decline is a big undertaking and every expression of support keeps us going. Volunteer time and funds permitting, projects will be rolled out further, so any gardeners willing to plant, pond-owners willing to report amphibious visitors, or landowners keen to house a dormouse nest, please email info@haslemerevision.org.uk, we'd love to hear from you.

The beavers have landed

By Gareth David



Members will almost certainly have seen in both the local and national press last month that the eagerly-awaited pair of beavers has finally been released in the large and secure area that has been prepared for them over recent months at a location very close to the town.

While the National Trust has asked for the exact location to be kept quiet until the pair have established themselves, those who know where it is will have seen the extensive fencing and gates that have been put around the 37 acre site and we will all be looking forward to seeing pictures in due course of the pair and their dam-building exploits.

This is a truly notable event in wildlife conservation, marking the re-introduction of a species that was once an important part of the ecosystem, until beavers became extinct in Britain in the 16th century because of hunting for their fur, meat and scent glands. Their release locally follows a successful pilot release at Holnicote on Exmoor early last year, where the beavers have thrived.

On the day of their release David Elliott, National Trust Lead Ranger for the South Downs West, commented: "Today we are reintroducing a species which has been absent from this landscape for the last 400 years. Beavers are nature's water engineers and can help bring back the natural processes that have been missing from our environment.

"By creating their dams, the beavers will create new and wildlife-rich wetlands; ponds, rivulets and boggy areas that will, over the next few years, benefit a range of wildlife including amphibians such as frogs and toads, many dragonflies and damselflies and wildflowers such as Devil's-bit scabious that love damp meadows."

Bob Daniels, chair of the Black Down and Hindhead supporters, added: "The project is a great example of the things we can do locally to positively influence species decline, in a world where the opposite is an alarmingly prominent feature of global headlines. Thanks to local donors, large and small, and several years of hard work the beavers have arrived on site. Now it's up to the beavers to continue that hard work as ecosystem engineers in residence."

Our new residents were re-located from wild populations in Scotland, under licence from NatureScot, by consultant ecologist Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer. Their arrival has been

funded in part by the Black Down and Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust, who raised some £62,000 through the generosity of local supporters (including the Haslemere Society) and a grant of £68,866 from Viridor Credits Environmental Company.

The beavers' new home is on a site that was gifted to the National Trust in the 1990s through public subscription, when local residents fundraised to buy it for the nation. It is close to the 19th century home of Sir Robert Hunter, one of the three original founders of the National Trust, and an area that is being turned into a haven for wildlife, with a small herd of Long Horn cattle already living there.

As the beavers become accustomed to their new home, the National Trust's South Downs programme will be carefully monitored for its benefits - from water quality and floodwater management to ecology and vegetation changes - by research partners at Imperial College London, the University of Birmingham and the University of Exeter.

Over time the beavers will naturally manage the stream running through their new home and create wetland habitats. In the process they will coppice existing trees, allowing light to penetrate and encourage lower growing plants and shrubs to thrive, creating new habitats and niches for an increased range of flowers, birds, insects, small mammals and amphibians to develop.

Lost sons of Haslemere:

By Shirley Harrison

Private John Benjamin Lamboll (17 Jul 1898–28 Mar 1918)

**52598 / 2nd/7th Lancashire Fusiliers 197th Brigade 66th Division
(Previously 3377, Yeomanry Cyclist Regiment)**



John Benjamin Lamboll was born on 17th July 1898, the only child of Emma (born Le Grey) and Frederick Lamboll. His birth certificate gives his place of birth as "Scotlands", Haslemere. This might refer to either Scotland Farm or possibly Scotland Park (now Red Court but being put forward for a new development once again called Scotland Park) on Scotland Lane. His father, who was employed as a coachman, was both a member of the Town Band and a bellringer at St. Bartholomew's Church. There is a photograph taken in 1897 of the bellringers outside the bell tower:



Frederick is standing in the back row at the far left and his brother Thomas, is seated in the front row second from the left. Thomas had two sons, Frank and Frederick, both born in Haslemere, who were also killed in the Great War, but their names do not appear on the Haslemere Memorial alongside their cousin John, as the family had moved to Somerset.

When the 1901 census was taken, the family was still at "Scotlands", living in accommodation attached to the stables. Frederick was no longer the coachman, but working as a gardener. Ten years later, they had moved to Capel Cottage in Hill Road, a house I have not been able to identify but it was substantial, with nine rooms. Frederick was still described as a gardener, but was earning enough to employ a live-in maid. The family later moved to Holly Lodge on Weydown Road. Frederick started his own business as a market gardener on a smallholding.



Holly Lodge, Weydown Rd, Haslemere in 2021

John's 18th birthday fell on 17th July 1916. The Military Service Act of January that year imposed conscription on all unexempted single men aged 18 – 41. He would have been expected to present himself for enlistment, and he dutifully did so at Guildford. John's complete service record has gone, but we can glean enough from what is available to know that he started out in one of the Yeomanry Cyclist Battalions, which were mostly used as a coastal defence force and were not sent abroad.

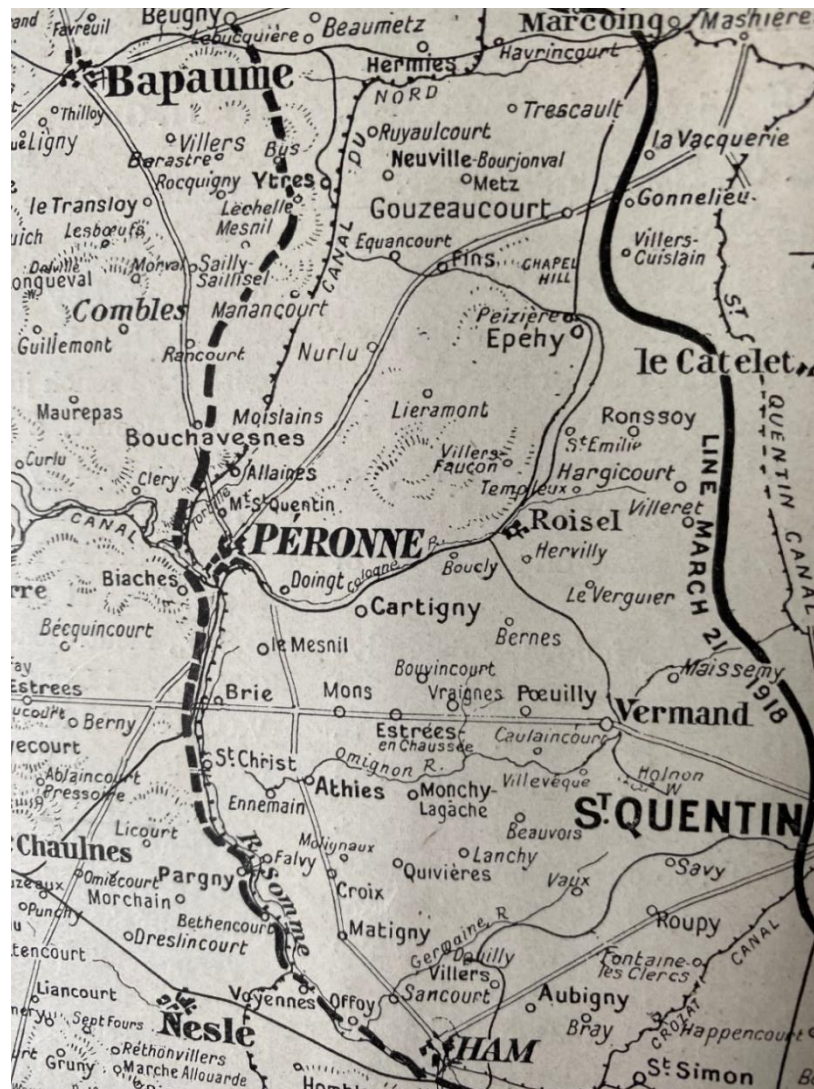
Several were disbanded and their men transferred to other Regiments, which is possibly how John later found himself in the 2nd/7th Lancashire Fusiliers, in the 197th Brigade, part of the 66th Division. There had been an earlier pledge that no man (or more accurately boy) under the age of 19 would fight overseas, which would have kept John safe until at least July 1917, the earliest date he could have been sent abroad. In October 1917, the battalion was involved in the Battle of Poelcapelle on the Ypres Salient, and it is quite possible that John was there with them.

The "Last Stand" at the Templeux-le-Guerard quarries 21st March 1918

In the middle of February 1918, the 2nd/7th Lancashire Fusiliers, including John, were at Marcelcave, near Amiens, taking part in intensive training in open warfare and counterattack tactics in preparation for the expected German Spring Offensive. They had already received the news that the 66th Division was to travel across the Somme towards Hargicourt to reinforce General Hubert Gough's Fifth Army, which was struggling to find the manpower to withstand the imminent attack. On 28th February the battalion, consisting of 52 officers and 919 "other ranks", marched to Villers-Carbonnel staging camp on the west

bank of the river. They were about to be sent to one of the worst affected sectors of the British Line during the German "Operation Michael".

The whole 197th Brigade, of which John's battalion was a part, endured terrible events during March 1918, and was almost annihilated. The war diary for the 2/7th Lancashire Fusiliers is missing for this period, which makes it difficult to determine exactly what happened to them. The Brigade diary states that the 2/7th Lancashire Fusiliers moved on 2nd March into support trenches just outside Hargicourt, 10 miles east of Peronne, including those at Templeux-le-Guerard where the British had dug in on the edge of some fortified quarries. The excellent "History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1914-1918" compiled by Major-General J. C. Latter in 1949 from the few remaining eyewitnesses gives some insights into the disaster that followed.



Map showing Hargicourt and Templeux to the east of Peronne. Dotted line shows German gains by 23rd March 1918

During the afternoon of 20th March, Brigade HQ received intelligence that an attack would probably start the next day. At 3.45 am the next morning patrols noticed a build-up of German troops in the trenches outside Hargicourt, and an hour later an intense bombardment of gas and high explosives hit the British lines, almost obliterating the

frontline trenches. A very heavy concentration of phosgene and tear gas hit the quarries at Templeux, where most of John's battalion were deployed. The Brigade diary admits:

"The sequence of events that followed is obscure owing to a very intense mist which showed no signs of lifting until between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. The enemy attacked between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. In addition all telephone wires were cut immediately on commencement of the enemy bombardment, consequently all communication was by runner only. These runners found difficulty in moving quickly owing to the mist.... At 1.30 p.m. the Quarries were reported enveloped. "

The village of Hargicourt had fallen three hours earlier. The infantry attack had come from a southerly direction towards Hargicourt, which consequently turned the left flank of the Brigade. The 2/7th Lancashire Fusiliers attempted to form a centre of resistance at the quarries but were quickly completely surrounded and bypassed by the attackers. According to J.C. Latter an earlier order to retire had miscarried, so they decided to fight on until they ran out of ammunition.

At 3 p.m. the Germans brought up some heavy "Minenwerfers" (mine launchers) which proceeded to destroy the positions in the quarry, while at the same time they entered the quarry tunnels. At 5 p.m. the survivors of the garrison were compelled to surrender. Only about 60 men were left of the original 450.

Miraculously, one small party under Captain E.A. Smirke managed to break out of the trap in disregard of all danger and made their way to a crossroads to the SW of Templeux, where they attached themselves to the 6th Lancashire Fusiliers. Other portions of the battalion, who had been in support trenches outside the quarries, took their places on the western outskirts of the now occupied village. John must have been among one of these groups of battered, gassed and exhausted men. They held these positions throughout the night, which was a surprisingly quiet one.

The defence of the Somme crossings

About 4 a.m. the next day, 22nd March, the German bombardment reopened for the next stage of the attack, causing more heavy casualties. The shelling lasted for about five hours, and once again the countryside was shrouded in thick fog. At dawn German shock troops attacked en masse, and the depleted 197th Brigade began a bedraggled retirement towards Roisel, fighting a rearguard action. At 4.30 p.m. an order was received to continue retiring to Buire-Courcelles but on arrival the village was being so heavily shelled it was considered unsafe to stay the night, so they continued west towards Peronne.

They took up a position on the west bank of the Somme 1000 yards north of Eterpigny, with the purpose of stopping the Germans from crossing the river. John's unit was now very close to that of Frank Upfold, another Haslemere man, who was to die defending the Somme crossings slightly to the south. When the last of the 66th Division had crossed the river, by noon on 23rd March, the order was given to blow up the bridges. The road bridge at Peronne was successfully destroyed, but a hitch occurred with the railway bridge, which remained intact. Casualties in the battalion so far were estimated to be 14 officers and 450 men.

On 24th March the German shelling increased in intensity. In the afternoon the enemy appeared on the opposite bank and began attempting to cross. The Brigade diary says it was told to hold on *"irrespective of the situation on their flanks owing to various rumours of troops withdrawing and leaving their flanks exposed"*. Somehow, they repulsed the invaders

again and again, until forced to give way when more German troops, who had thrown a footbridge over the river in the night, appeared from the north.

A new position was taken up on high ground between Barleux and Biaches. Casualties had now been so heavy in the 197th Brigade that any organisation into its original battalions was no longer achievable. Men were grouped under any surviving officers as convenient, and it is quite impossible to determine exactly where John was, or who he was with. The morning of 25th March was marked by more heavy shelling.

Large numbers of Germans were now crossing the river, particularly across the unbroken railway bridge at Peronne and the remains of the bridge at Eterpigny. The situation was rapidly becoming untenable, so a further withdrawal to a new position between Assevillers and Herbecourt was ordered. The following two days followed a similar gruelling pattern: artillery fire at dawn followed by an unstoppable German attack. This time the withdrawal was further harassed by a low flying German plane that machine gunned the withdrawing British troops.

John was reported killed on 28th March. He was somewhere just to the east of Harbonnieres, having fought a rearguard action, of about 26 miles over seven days, from the quarries at Templeux. His body was either buried where he fell, or it was simply left behind in the chaos.

What remained of the 66th Division, maybe only about 500 fighting men, finally reached a defensible line near Amiens, patched up with a few reinforcements, on 30th March 1918. The 2/7th Lancashire Fusiliers, which had lost 37 officers and 644 men never fought again. It was "reduced to cadre" in April and used to train US Army units.

John, who was only 19 years old, has no known grave. His name is engraved on the Pozieres Memorial which commemorates over 14,000 casualties. The inscription reads:

"In memory of the officers and men of the fifth and fourth armies who fought on the Somme battlefields 21st March – 7th August 1918 and of those of their dead who have no known graves."

Epilogue

Frederick and Emma Lamboll, who had lost their only child, endured a further tragedy in November 1918, when their second son, Bernard, born 20 years after John, died shortly after his birth aged 26 hours. This must have been an unspeakably cruel blow to bear, just as the war was finally ending. Both boys are remembered on their mother's gravestone in the Derby Road Cemetery, along with their father:

"In Affectionate Remembrance of Emma Florence, the devoted and loving wife of Frederick Lamboll, May 26th 1876 – January 23rd 1930. Also the two sons of the above, John Benjamin Lamboll, Lancashire Fusiliers, killed on France March 1918, aged 19 years, and Bernard Lamboll, aged 26 hours. Also of Frederick Lamboll who died May 12th 1957, aged 86 years"

Sources

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battlefields/gazetteer-of-the-western-front/gazetteer-western-front-hargicourt/>

The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1914-1918, by Major-General J. C. Latter, 1949, Gale and Polden

The Official War Diary of the 197th Infantry Brigade, National Archives, WO 95/3135/5/1 and WO 95/3135/5/2

A dip into the Society's archives

Chris Harrison

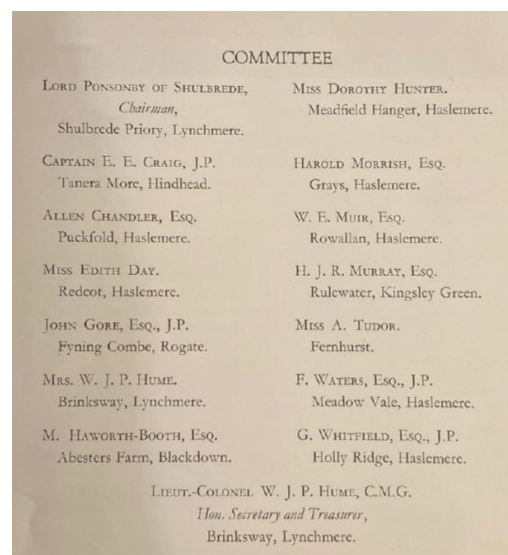
In our October newsletter, I shared how I had been using lockdown to organise the archives of the Society and promised that in this newsletter I would answer the question "If the Society was constituted in 1935, why is the AGM in 2020 the 136th?"

Unfortunately, lockdown now prevents me from answering this question in a way that will do justice to the answer.

The good news is that in the first week of December 2020, I completed the organisation and indexing of the archives and the Society, having invested in 10 archive quality boxes was able to gift the archive to the museum where it can be accessed under reference 2020DB4. Hopefully, the archives will be of interest to researchers interested in the history of the town, the surrounding countryside and many of its most important buildings. We will shortly be creating a page on our website which will make the detailed index readily accessible to researchers in the future.

The bad news is that, to do justice to the answer to the question, I do need access to the archives and of course the museum remains closed at the present time: so, the answer to the question will have to wait.

Readers may recall that in the last newsletter I shared the story of how The Society, then known as the Haslemere & District Preservation Society was set up in 1935 with the primary motivation to acquire land adjacent to Tennyson's Lane to protect it from development. This the society succeeded in doing before gifting the land to The National Trust. Rather than leave readers bereft of anything of interest, readers of our digital edition might be interested in reading the subsequent appeal for funds to provide for future maintenance of the land issued in the name of The National Trust but by The Committee of the Society which includes some interesting pictures. Readers of the printed version will have to satisfy themselves with an image of the page listing the committee members:



COMMITTEE	
LORD PONSONBY OF SHULBREDE, <i>Chairman</i> , Shulbrede Priory, Lynchmere.	MISS DOROTHY HUNTER, Meadfield Hanger, Haslemere.
CAPTAIN E. E. CRAIG, J.P. Tanera More, Hindhead.	HAROLD MORRISH, ESQ. Grays, Haslemere.
ALLEN CHANDLER, ESQ. Puckfold, Haslemere.	W. E. MUIR, ESQ. Rowallan, Haslemere.
MISS EDITH DAY, Redcot, Haslemere.	H. J. R. MURRAY, ESQ. Rulewater, Kingsley Green.
JOHN GORE, ESQ., J.P. Fyning Combe, Rogate.	MISS A. TUDOR, Fernhurst.
MRS. W. J. P. HUME, Brinksway, Lynchmere.	F. WATERS, ESQ., J.P. Meadow Vale, Haslemere.
M. HAWORTH-BOOTH, ESQ. Abesters Farm, Blackdown.	G. WHITFIELD, ESQ., J.P. Holly Ridge, Haslemere.
LIEUT.-COLONEL W. J. P. HUME, C.M.G. <i>Hon. Secretary and Treasurer</i> , Brinksway, Lynchmere.	

Might the clue to the answer to my original question lie in the inclusion of Mrs Dorothy Hunter of Meadfield Hanger which is in Three Gates Lane?

Find out next time.

The night “Any Questions” came to town

By Robert Serman



In this house, as doubtless in many others, Radio 4 is regularly and frequently switched on throughout the day. Occasionally, pre-COVID, we would hear, ‘This evening’s Any Questions is cancelled’. Reasons would be given – sometimes political, more often, the weather.

Things have changed since 2009, and during the present challenging times it is a much reduced programme – a phone-in or similar, without face to face contact. The idea of a panel of four people, currently in the public mind, travelling to various locations, meeting dozens of people one way or another by car or public transport is unthinkable.

However, it was over ten years ago that I wondered if AQ would come to Haslemere to mark the 125th year of the Haslemere Society. The planning for such a visit is enormous, time consuming and detailed, and the thought of all that effort simply being announced as ‘cancelled’ has ever since caused me to be grateful that our Haslemere edition of the programme came to fruition!

As it was my idea to invite the BBC to come, our then Chairman David Smith, perfectly reasonably, left it to me to arrange it. The Dimbleby family had for many years been a key part of the programme and it was Jonathan who was to chair the programme on Friday 1st May 2009. So far so good!

The arrangements were daunting: a BBC eight-page document arrived in the post, setting out everything that needed to be covered: everything from the layout and dimensions (!) of the stage, evidence of insurance, tickets for the audience, including whether any organisations had applied for many, the number of tickets allocated to each of the main parties, local notables who would be invited, and who else would attend.

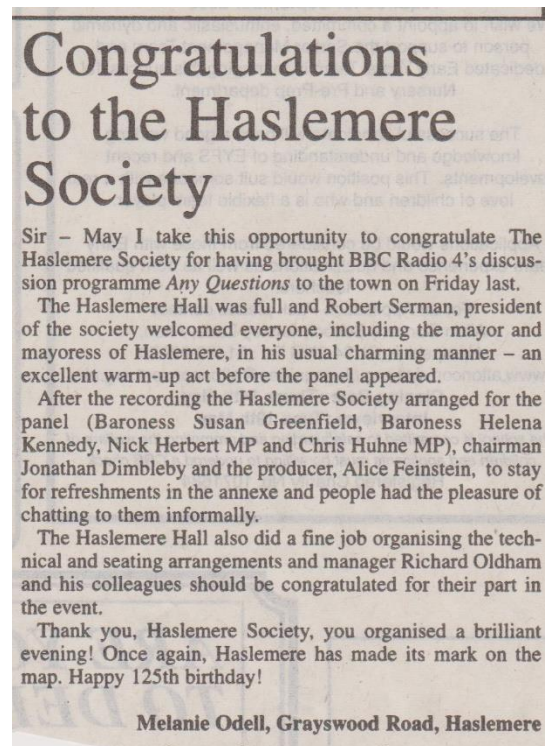
Then there was the timing, the refreshments, and the pre-broadcast technical survey. Arrangements were in place for giving details of the panel so that topical and relevant questions could be devised by the audience which aimed to be as diverse as the local community.

As this information about the panel members was only made known a couple of days before the broadcast, attending to that aspect was added to the rather long list of 'last minute tasks'.

Our wonderful and, politically speaking, reasonably diverse membership rose to the occasion most excellently, as did other people of Haslemere. Haslemere Hall was packed and the ten members of the audience whose submitted questions had been chosen for possible inclusion, sat in the front row of the hall.

The panellists were: Baroness Susan Greenfield, Neuroscientist and head of the Royal Institution, Baroness Helena Kennedy, human rights lawyer and Labour Life Peer, Nick Herbert MP, Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Chris Huhne, Lib-Dem MP, spokesman on Home Affairs.

After the broadcast, the panellists, programme producer, Alice Feinstein, and Chairman Jonathan Dimpleby chatted over refreshments with the audience members. The verdict of a very good evening was agreed.



Introducing Haslemere Community Station

Reorganisation of the highly successful Community Rail Partnership has led to the creation of a new entity to manage its activities in Haslemere. Chairman DAVID GODDIN explains his background and vision for Haslemere Community Station



'Most Enhanced Station' – Community Rail Awards 2020

Haslemere Info Hub – Your first stop in our lovely town

For those of you who don't know me, I am a public relations consultant with a background in newspaper journalism. I was born in the UK but completed my schooling in South Africa, where I also went to university and began my career.

I was introduced to trains at an early age and the interest has never waned. I have lived in Haslemere for 20 years and have been running my own business for the past ten.

I am a past president of Haslemere Chamber of Trade and Commerce – and it was during that term that I became involved with Community Rail, recognising its potential to attract visitors to the area: visitors whose spending power might provide a welcome boost to the local economy.

Under Nikki Barton's leadership, and in a short space of time, Haslemere Community Rail Partnership grew from a 'station' project to a 'line' project – now known as the Surrey Hills to South Downs Community Rail Partnership, encompassing the five separate 'community stations' Farncombe to Haslemere.

While the short-term outlook may seem bleak, and hopes of an early opening of the Information Hub, and resumption of other activities, are unlikely to be met, I have set myself some short and longer-term priorities. Broadly, these are to keep Haslemere Community Station active and in the public eye. The key word is 'community' and five things I want to see are:

- closer engagement with local businesses and other organisations that stand to benefit from development of the visitor economy
- exploration of the possibilities for enhancing the travel experience through Haslemere Station
- a focus on more sustainable road transport connections for rail passengers
- ongoing improvement of transport and station facilities to cater for elderly passengers and people with special needs
- involvement of more volunteers – in the Hub and other Community Station activities.

What we have already is strong core support from our partners and our volunteers. This backing is much appreciated and it will be the backbone of our activity in the months and years ahead.

With my background it may be no surprise that I'm pinning my hopes on communication, call it marketing if you prefer. Either way, it's a matter of presenting our proposition to internal and external audiences via as many channels as possible. But true communication is a two-way street, so we must also listen to our markets – and especially to the feedback we get from our contacts.

Recently I noted some 20 ideas of things we could – and I believe should – be doing. Most important is the need for planned campaigns for each of the four seasons, so that we can best serve our visitors and our partners – and generate exposure via social media, the internet and more traditional media.

The immediate priority is to develop and implement a plan focusing on the coming summer. But given the current uncertainties over Covid-19, I think we may still be seeing travel restrictions in force so implementation of the plan is likely to be delayed.

However, as soon as the pandemic subsides sufficiently, we need to open the Hub for more hours, seven days a week. We also need to find additional uses for the Hub, to get more people through the door.

We need more promotional materials that we can take to events such as the Charter Fair and Christmas Fair and use whenever other opportunities arise. We need to talk to our partners more often.

We need to say things that get reported, in print, online, on the air. We need material for our website, and our social media channels. If you are on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram please follow us and share our message among your friends and contacts.

We are financially sound, thanks to the generosity of our partners, but we need to repay that generosity with tangible progress. We also need a pipeline of ideas to encourage ongoing investment and additional partnerships.

I do not claim to have all the answers, so I welcome comments and ideas in the weeks and months ahead. But above all, I look forward to your continued support. This is not about me or any one of us: it's about a team working for the good of the community. The opportunities are many – let's make them happen!

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE: *An exciting initiative currently being pursued by HCS (and led by me!) is an attempt to takeover and safeguard Haslemere Station's Grade II-Listed signal box when its operational use ends, which could be within the next couple of years. Watch this space!*

A visit to the Hunter Centre

By Jane Stopford-Russell



One of our town's most significant charitable institutions is the Hunter Centre in Grayswood Road, which caters for those suffering from dementia and was named after a local resident and retired neurologist, Dr Anne Hunter, who along with her husband Brian Hunter were founder members of the Alzheimer's Society in 1979.

The centre grew out of the longstanding Alzheimer's Day Centre, which was based at the Marjorie Gray Hall in Grayswood Road. It was faced with closure in 2017, when the Alzheimer's Society decided to withdraw the funding from many of their day care centres and concentrate its funds on research into the illness.

This was a real blow to those who enjoyed the support and benefit of the day care centre, one of whom, Margaret Barlow, together with Jeremy Hunt MP, called a meeting with the CEO of the Alzheimer's Society and managed to secure a three month extension. This gave the opportunity to look for local support and raise the necessary funds to continue running the day care centre.

Under the leadership of the then town Mayor, Sahran Abeyesundara, and his deputy, Malcolm Carter, a meeting was held that was also attended by a number of local people including the Chairman of the Orchard Club, Philip Currie, and a past Chairman of the existing day centre, Barbara Jeffers. Following this it was decided to re-establish a day centre, as an independent non-profit making business with charitable status.

A group of trustees was formed and were fortunate to have the help and advice of the Chairman of the Chertsey centre for dementia care. He shared his business plan, policies and budget with the trustees, whose newly elected Chairman Anne Downing was able to arrange heads of terms for a lease of the building and organise a much-needed refurbishment in time for the re-opening in July 2017.

Most of the existing staff were re-employed and most clients remained, although time was short. The local community were hugely generous with founder members being specially recognised and several enjoyable fund raising events being very successful.

A group of enthusiastic trustees and a team of dedicated and experienced staff now provides an excellent day care and advice facility for residents of Haslemere and the surrounding area.

The past year's lockdowns has been very challenging, but the staff have continued to open the centre when legally possible and it felt safe to do so, with client numbers restricted. They have also maintained regular telephone contact with carers, to offer support and advice.

Lockdown has been a difficult experience for those with dementia, as isolation and lack of stimulation hastens their downward progress, and has been very stressful for the carers. But all staff and clients have now received vaccinations and the centre's doors are open again, with health rules being strictly followed

Looking ahead, the Hunter Centre team hopes to mark Dementia Awareness week on 17th May and celebrate the Founding Day on 17th July. Plans are also afoot for offering sessions for those in the early stages of dementia and becoming recognised as a "go to" point for advice and education on Dementia care.

If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about what the Hunter centre has to offer please contact the.manager@thehuntercentre.co.uk or visit www.thehuntercentre.co.uk

Forthcoming events in Haslemere: May-September 2021

Compiled by Di Keeley

We are fortunate in Haslemere to have an extremely wide and varied range of clubs, societies and other activities. This timetable features a range of forthcoming events, with further information available from the web addresses listed. In view of the current coronavirus situation, please check details of events close to their planned dates.

Haslemere Festival - See the feature following this calendar for details of the wide range of events taking place between 14-31 May and featuring:

- **Evening Concerts** (classical, jazz, dance, opera)
- **Weekend and Family events** (Dog Show, Gruffalo)
- **Weekday Talks** (with focus on anniversaries and local affairs)

Haslemere Museum www.haslemeremuseum.co.uk/whatson/whatson.html

- **Family Events and Workshops:**
 - Early Years** (stories; craft activities) for under 5s. Friday mornings
 - Museum Explorers** (5-11 years) - monthly Saturday activities based on the collections and exhibitions of the museum, or on seasonal and national events
 - Early Birds:** Wednesday 2nd June, 9-10 am.. Special opening for families with children who have an Autism Spectrum condition
 - Historical Hindhead Murder:** Saturday 5th June 10.30 – 12. (5-11 years) Learn about this dastardly deed and how to record a story of your own
 - Pond Dipping:** Friday 21st May 10.30 – 11.30.
- **Glad Rags Project:** Contributions invited for a community patchwork quilt
- **Fundraising Plant Sale:** Saturday 22nd May 11am- 1pm

Haslemere Natural History Society www.haslemerenaturalhistorysociety.org.uk
No field trips or meeting yet published; check website for recent additions.
Recent sightings in the area regularly updated.

Haslemere Town Council www.haslemeretc.org

- **Amenities:** 10th June; 19th Aug.
- **Full Council:** 22nd July; 13th Sept.
- **Grants:** 12th July; 13th Sept
- **Planning:** 27th May; 17th June; 15th July; 12th Aug; 9th Sept.

Haslemere Hall www.haslemerehall.co.uk

- **Play for Children aged 3-8 years:** 'Zoom': Tues. 1st June 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm
- **Haslemere Thespians:** 'Just What the Doctor Ordered!' 17th – 19th June
- **Live Music:** Ray Cooper. 8 pm. Thurs. 1st July
Steve Harley Accoustic Band 8 pm. 17th Sept
Nine BelowZero – Don't Point Your Finger 8 pm. 24th Sept.
- **Haslemere Players:** 'Legally Blonde – The Musical'; October 2021

The Arts Society Haslemere www.theartsocietyhaslemere.org

- **18th May:** Lecture: August Rodin and 19th century Sculpture (free entry as part of the Haslemere Festival)
- **15th June:** Lecture: The Lute within Old Masters Paintings

- **29th September:** Overseas Outing: Nancy, Lorraine's historic capital, 18th century to Art Nouveau

Haslemere Musical Society www.hmsoc.org.uk

No concerts planned yet for 2021.

Currently holding rehearsals for choir and orchestra over zoom. See website for details

Haslemere Art Society www.haslemere.com/artsoc

All planned events suspended until further notice

Haslemere Gardening Society www.haslemere-gardening-society.co.uk/events

- **Sat. 5th June:** Coffee morning
- **Visits: Wed. 16th June:** visit to Cliveden Gardens and Bedlow Manor Gardens
Wed 14th July: visit to Nymans Gardens and Herstmonceux Castle Gardens
Wed 21st July: AGM
Wed 22nd Sept.: Talk on 'Clematis Through the Seasons'

Haslemere Fringe Festival www.lionfest.co.uk

All events postponed until July 2022

Gardens in Haslemere Open to the Public (NGS: check for pre-booking)

- **The Manor House:** May 23rd
- **Whitehanger:** July 11th and 25th

Farmers Market

Held in Haslemere High Street on the first Sunday of the month, 10 am – 1.30 pm
 'Currently on Hold'

Haslemere Library www.surreycc.gov.uk

Programme of regular online events

- **Pebble Rhymetime:** Introduction to songs, rhymes and books. Every Wednesday 10-10.30
- **Storytime:** Wednesdays 10.30
- **Crafts for Children:** Tuesdays 4.30
- **STEM Activities (science):** Thursdays 4.30

U3A Haslemere www.u3asites.org.uk

In normal times the Haslemere U3A has 60 active groups – check with the website.
 Currently, meetings are held by Zoom

Haslemere Thespians www.haslemerethespians.co.uk

- The regular programme of events including pantomime, full length and one act plays, 'Next Generation' youth group has been curtailed this year
- **'Just What the Doctor Ordered':** 17th – 19th June 7.30 pm. Songs, sketches, monologues, stand up comedy, and the return of six individuals willing to go the 'Full Monty'.
- Opportunity to join as performers, backstage or offstage
- Social activities including play readings, theatre outings, AGM and games afternoon

Haslemere Players www.haslemereplayers.com

- **Show Stoppers 'Songs from the Shows':** 4th- 5th June
- **'Legally Blonde':** 26- 30 October

Haslemere Festival, 14th to 31st May 2021

Festival Box Office 01428 642161

Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS

On-line bookings www.haslemerehall.co.uk

email: boxoffice@haslemerehall.com

Open weekdays 9 am to 1 pm: Saturdays 10 am to 12 noon

Cheques payable to Haslemere Hall

Friends of the Festival get a 10% discount if they enter their promotional code

Welcome to Haslemere Festival

Since our first Festival in 2004 we have established a popular pattern of events. The Arts Festival is held on odd years, the Fringe Festival on even years with the Cycle Sportive, Classic Car Show and the Triathlon every year. For 2021 you will find for the Arts Festival:

- **Evening concerts** (classical, jazz, dance, opera)
- **Weekend and family events** (Dog Show, Gruffalo)
- **Weekday Talks** (with focus on anniversaries and local affairs)

We have, once again, an excellent programme of events for all ages featuring world class talent - both local and imported. I am sure you will not be disappointed.

COVID CONTINGENCY

At the time of going to press, there is still some uncertainty about the restrictions that may be in place during the Arts Festival. It is very unfortunate that many of the concerts have had to be cancelled, largely because Covid restrictions have not allowed sufficient rehearsal time. We are planning to run all the remaining events in the programme in person, on-line or by Zoom. We are sure you will welcome our efforts to re-start entertainment following the lockdown.

Hamish Donaldson, Chairman

Haslemere Rotary Scarecrow Competition – On show from 17th to 30th May



To celebrate the easing of 'lockdown' Haslemere Rotary invites all the people of Haslemere to make a scarecrow to display in their front gardens, which will then be judged with prizes given to the winners. Judging and prize giving on Sunday 30th May on Lion Green at 2.30pm

Monday 17th May, 11 am: Anniversary Talk - Ralph Vaughan Williams – Britain's Most Popular Composer?

Ralph Vaughan Williams is today enjoying greater popularity than at any time since his death in 1958. The immense popularity of *The Lark Ascending* and the *Tallis Fantasia* is just the tip of the iceberg. Simon Coombs, Chairman of the RVW Society, will be exploring some of the music which is not so well known, but which ought to be! Haslemere Museum, £5

Monday 17th May, 2.30pm: Anniversary Talk - The 'Rosetta Stone': The many lives of an icon of translation

The so-called Rosette Stone famously enabled the 19th century European decipherment of the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic script. This lecture is by Richard Bruce Parkinson, Professor of Egyptology at the University of Oxford. Haslemere Museum, £5



Monday 17th May, 7.30pm: Sing-In the Summer with Janet Ayers (on zoom)

Join Natural Voice Practitioner Janet Ayers as she leads you in song on an early summer evening. Open to seasoned singers and newbies alike. You'll learn some lovely songs from around the world in glorious harmony. Janet has been running community choirs and singing for health groups for fifteen years, and is looking forward to meeting you on zoom. £8

Tuesday 18th May, 11am: Ten years as a special in London

Allen Chubb will share startling and sometimes amusing stories of his busy ten years' service as a part-time police officer, joining in 1974 at a time when civil disorder seemed likely and when the IRA had started a long bombing campaign in London. Haslemere Museum, £5



Tuesday 18th May, 2pm: The Arts Society Haslemere

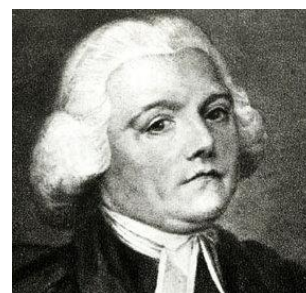
The Arts Society Haslemere are holding a lecture to be given by the accredited lecturer David Worthington on the subject of **August Rodin and 19th Century Sculpture**. At Haslemere Hall, free entry.

Wednesday 19th May, 11am: In Search of the Whale

Jock Gardner's talk will look at the range of these fascinating marine mammals,, their lives and habitats, and – very importantly – the history of human interaction with them. Haslemere Museum, £5

19th May, 2.30pm: Anniversary Talk - Gilbert White, the outdoor naturalist.

Gilbert White revolutionised the way the world looked at nature, inspiring future scientists such as Charles Darwin. Gilbert White born in 1720, and changed the way the world looked at nature. In this talk Collections Manager at Gilbert White's House, Kimberley James will take you through Gilbert's life from a lively child, to his worldwide fame and lasting natural legacy. Haslemere Museum, £5



Wednesday 19th May, 7.30pm: Anniversary Talk - The Life and Surprising Legacy of Anne Frank



In 2021, following many months of lockdown, we can perhaps begin to relate to the problems Anne Frank faced. But her two-year isolation in hiding from the Nazis meant facing arrest and death every minute of the day. Recently retired Executive Director and Co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK, Gillian Walnes Perry is a hugely popular speaker and has had many years' speaking, lecturing and broadcasting experience. At Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, £5

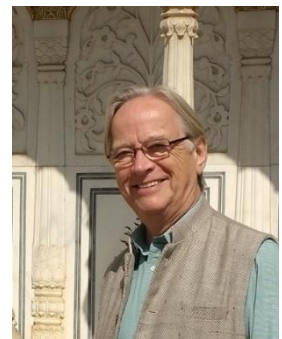
Thursday 20th May, 11am: The History of a National Treasure: The King James Bible.

The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert PhD.

The King James Bible, or as it is more commonly known in Britain, the Authorised Version, through its beauty and grace of language has helped to shape our culture. But it did not come about by chance. It was the result of a long political and scholarly process. This lecture will explore how it came into being, and will trace the origins of Biblical translation from the earliest times. Christopher Herbert was Bishop of St Albans until his retirement in 2009. Haslemere Museum, £5

Thursday 20th May, 2.30pm: Anniversary Talk - Partition and Conflict - India and Pakistan Divided

The Partition of India, with the creation of Pakistan at the time of India's independence nearly 75 years ago, was a tragedy, both in terms of the loss of human life as the countries were split, and because of the continuing conflict that it caused. The history of the event and its consequences will be explored by John Elliott, a semi-retired foreign correspondent who was based for over 25 years in New Delhi. Haslemere Museum, £5



Thursday May, 20th at 7pm: The Haslemere String Competition Finalists side by side Chamber Music Concert.

The Haslemere String Competition, started by Ishani Bhoola in 2017, is open to young musicians age 11-19 and has had entries from across England, with first rounds held in Bristol and Haslemere. The final round was part of the 2019 Haslemere Festival but due to Covid the competition for 2021 has now been moved to 2023. The concert on May 20th is a side-by-side chamber music concert, with finalists from the competition in 2019 performing with professional musicians. St Bartholomew's Church, £5

Friday 21st May, 11am: 'Tapestry: A Twentieth Century Renaissance'.

This talk covers the years of the early to mid-20th century when tapestry was undergoing a major transformation. Margaret Jones is a local tapestry weaver, curator and tutor, she exhibits internationally and has won major prizes for her work. Haslemere Museum, £5

Friday 21st May, 2.30pm: Anniversary Talk - The future of the NHS – Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the dedication of the 1.3 million people working in the NHS. But it has also shone a light on the things the organisation could do better. Perhaps there is now an opportunity to have a 1948 style moment of major reform. We need an independent body to set the number of staff it requires so that we have enough doctors and nurses working safely in it. We need to reform medical litigation so that staff don't work under a fear of being blamed when things go wrong. And we need a ten-year plan and funding settlement for the social care system so that our loved ones get the support they need when they get old. The talk will be followed by a Q&A session. Haslemere Museum, £5



Friday 21st May, 7.30pm: Gareth Williams – A Journey through Jazz Piano

Gareth is one of the UK's top jazz pianists with huge and varied experience. He won the British Jazz Awards (piano) in 2013 and is a professor of jazz piano at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Gareth has been described by Peter Vacher (in Jazzwise) as "the embodiment of creative energy, a physical player who gets wrapped up in his work, with a keyboard command that's both impressive. St Bartholomew's Church, £12.50 (£10 on-line)



Saturday 22nd May, 1.30pm to 4.30pm: RSPCA Fun Dog Show

Registrations open from Noon. Bring your dog to have fun at the show and the chance to win a rosette or two. This is a non-serious, fun show, open to all dogs (and their owners!). Classes include Best veteran (10+ years), Waggiest tail, Best rescue, Best child's friend, Owner most like their dog and so on. Lion Green; Entrance £3.50 per class or £8 for three classes. Pay on the day



Saturday 22nd May, 7.30pm:

HHH Concerts in association with Haslemere Festival present
Mark Padmore CBE, Tenor, with Ana Manastireanu, pianist

Mark Padmore was born in London and won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. He has established an international career in opera, concert and recital. His appearances in Bach Passions have gained particular notice, especially his renowned performances as Evangelist in the *St Matthew* and *St John Passions* with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle.

His programme features Schubert Songs in Part I with a selection of songs from British composers (including Britten, Vaughan Williams, Holst and Tippett) in Part II. St Bartholomew's Church, £17.50 (£12.50 on-line)

Sunday 23rd May, 11 am: Historic Haslemere Town Walk led by Robert Serman

This 90-minute gentle stroll around the town centre focuses mostly, but not entirely, on the significant and mainly philanthropic individuals whose generosity played a key part in making Haslemere the desirable place it is, with the varied town architecture playing a large part in its attraction and interest. Meet at the front steps of Haslemere Hall, £5

Sunday 23rd May, 3pm: Bell Ringing - Come and Have a Go!

Try something different that is musical and exercises your mind, body and spirit! Have a go at hand-bells or try our biggest bell for size and find out what a ton of metal feels like! Finally see our app in action and then relax with another English tradition: home-made cakes. Cost £2, £1 for children (pay on the day) to cover the costs of the cake; the bell-ringing, as always, is free. At St Bartholomew's Church.



Sunday 23rd May, 6pm: Festival Evensong Civic Service

Rev Chris Bessant, Rector, will lead the Festival Choral Evensong at St. Bartholomew's, Haslemere's parish church. This service will mark the restoration of rare Flemish Glass panels which were originally located in the East window until the church was rebuilt by the Victorians in 1870. The panels were moved to the West windows where they suffered from the weather and poor repairs. The anthem is composed for the occasion by Clive Osgood, Director of Music. Free entry with retiring collection.



Monday 24th May, 11 am: Talk by Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle: "A Short History of the Castle and the Role of the Constable and Governor"

A look at the history of Windsor Castle from 1070 to the present day covering the architectural changes and the historic events that have taken place in the Castle and St George's Chapel. How I became the Constable and Governor and a short history of the role and incumbents of the post. Haslemere Museum, £5



Monday 24 May, 2.30pm: Anniversary Talk - The Mary Celeste, A Mystery of the Sea.

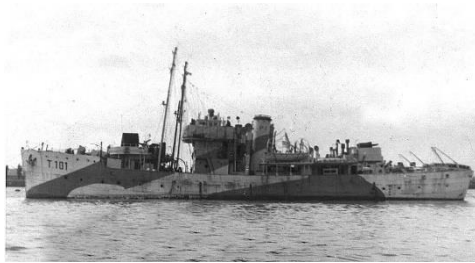
Mary Celeste was an American merchant brigantine discovered adrift and deserted in the Atlantic Ocean off the Azores Islands in December 1872. The last entry in her log was dated ten days earlier. Her cargo of ethanol intact, and the personal belongings of the crew were undisturbed. None of those who had been on board were ever seen or heard from again. Our speaker,

Howard Nichols' study of the mystery of the Mary Celeste has enabled him to examine the theories about their fate. Modern techniques now hold the clue to solving the mystery. Haslemere Museum, £5

Monday 24th 7.30pm: Military History – The Battle of the Somme – Love, Death and Recollections

Ruaraidh Adams-Cairns is a surveyor and ex-soldier who has been visiting the Somme for over 20 years, collecting stories about soldiers who fought there and connecting them with specific locations on the battlefield. General Sir Mike Jackson, former Chief of the General Staff, has described the talk as "A truly moving insight into the horrors and losses of the day the British Army suffered its biggest ever casualties". Haslemere Museum, £5

Tuesday 25th May, 11am: HMT Pine and Royal Navy Patrol Service"



"What lies at the bottom of the sea?" If you ask a wreck diver you may get some interesting answers. Revd Chris Bessant – The Rector of Haslemere – was in a previous existence a keen wreck scuba diver, with a passion of marine archaeology. This talk will look into some forgotten areas of maritime WWII, the Royal Navy Patrol Service, and about how such underwater archaeology is quite a challenge to undertake. Haslemere Museum, £5

Tuesday 25th May, 2.30 pm: Picasso's Guernica: The greatest anti-war icon

Guernica is a very large 1937 oil painting on canvas by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. It is regarded as one of the most moving and powerful paintings in history. It portrays the suffering of people and animals wrought by violence and chaos. It is a very complex painting with images that convey the story in subtle detail. Our speaker, Gijs van Hensbergen (a world expert on Picasso and biographer of Gaudi) has made a special study of the painting and its subject. Haslemere Museum, £5



Wed 26th May, 11am: Anniversary Talk - "One More Year": The Earl, the Castle and the Tomb

100 years ago, 'Tutankhamun' became the most exciting ever discovery in archaeology, attracting world-wide attention then and today. Behind the front-page news is the story of how an English Earl developed a love of Egypt, was persuaded to give 'one more year' to what was thought to be a no-hope quest, and died in Cairo before he could

return to his beloved home at Highclere Castle. Diana Mitchell, Head Guide at the Castle for nearly twenty years, tells this fascinating tale and its place in the wider story of a place, a family and a more recent claim to fame – as 'The Real Downton Abbey'. Haslemere Museum, £5

Wednesday 26th May, 2.30 pm: Military History – the WWII Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway

As a boy, evacuated to Australia from Singapore, Hamish Donaldson was all too aware of the seemingly unstoppable advance of the Japanese from December 1941 to May 1942. The first two aircraft carrier battles (The Coral Sea and Midway) marked the first turning point in this war and the long road to Japan's eventual defeat. In this talk, Hamish reviews the Japanese strategic objectives before his riveting account of how these battles were won and lost. Haslemere Museum, £5

Wednesday 26th May, 7.30pm: The talented Tippett Quartet

The Programme starts with **Gustav Holst String Quartet Phantasy on British Folk Songs**

composed in 1916 when Holst was 42. It is followed by **Maurice Ravel String Quartet in F major**, composed when Ravel was 28. After the Interval, we will be treated to **Schubert Quartet in D minor D.810 'Death and the Maiden'**

which has been called 'one of the pillars of the chamber music repertoire'. It was composed when Schubert was 27 after he suffered a serious illness and realised that he was dying. St Bartholomew's Church, £15 (£10 on-line)



Wednesday 26th May, 7.30pm: 2021 – a year of opportunity?

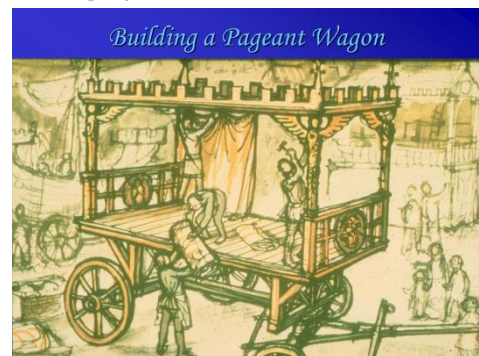
This is a year when the UK will host two major international gatherings: the G7 and the Climate Conference (COP26). Christine Allen will explore ways in which these events could make a difference to our world, especially to the lives of people who live in poverty. Christine is Director of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), a leading international aid agency, and has worked in this field for many years. Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, £5

Thursday 27th May, 11am: Anniversary talk – The Making of Haslemere

A talk about why 1221 is such a special year for the town. It will include some horrible history featuring King John and an introduction to the good guy who may have brought the town into existence. The speaker, Chris Hinton, started volunteering in the Museum just a few months before lock-down but in that time spotted something special about 1221. Haslemere Museum, £5

Thursday 27th 2.30pm: All the world's a stage, or at least it has been since 1556

This talk is for anyone who has laughed at a farce, sobbed at a tragedy or screamed at a panto. How did we get from the back of a farm cart to the theatres of the modern West End? Lynne Taylor-Gooby takes a light hearted look at the development of the theatre in England from the departure of the Romans to modern times. Haslemere Museum, £5



Thursday 27th May, 7.30pm: A romantic trip from Vivaldi to Wagner

Janice Watson accompanied by Clive Osgood

Janice Watson is one of the worlds most celebrated sopranos, renowned for the beauty of her sound. She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and first came to prominence as winner of the Kathleen Ferrier memorial award. In opera she has sung all over the world with leading roles such as Pamina (Magic Flute), Arabella and Elettra (Idomeneo) Daphne, Arabella and Eva (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg). Her programme contains some of her absolute favourites, with a

selection of Baroque songs through the late classical era to the wonderful romanticism of Wagner and his love for Matilda Wesendonck. It concludes with a flourish of Extravagant Opera. £15 (£10 on-line)

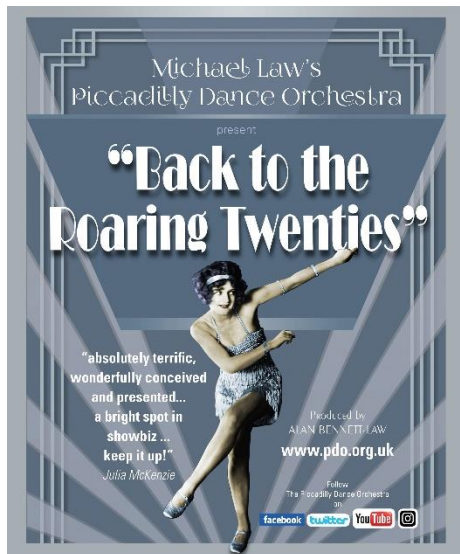


Friday 28th May, 11am: Gerard Manley Hopkins and his family in Haslemere

Gerard Manley Hopkins [1844-89] was an unknown poet and Jesuit priest when he visited his family's new home in Haslemere in August 1887. Two years later he was dead and his Memorial window was placed in St Bartholomew's Church – nearly thirty years before publication of his collected poems. Katherine Jessel's detailed research puts Gerard's visit into context and reveals the remarkable Hopkins family's sixty-six years in Haslemere. St Bartholomew's Church, £5

Friday 28th 2.30pm: Painting Masterclass with Roger Deller PS RI ROI

Haslemere Art Society was founded in 1894 and is one of the oldest art societies in England. Our President, Roger Dellar, is an internationally acclaimed artist, exhibiting and teaching in America and Europe. This afternoon he will demonstrate painting a portrait in oils and his sitter is Christian Ashdown who has been Haslemere's Town Crier for eleven years. Please join us for tea after the demonstration. Haslemere Museum, £5

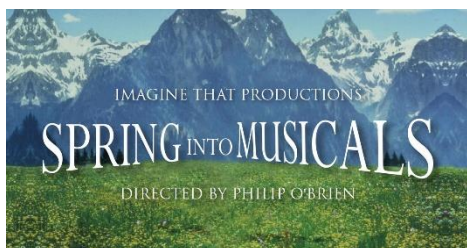


Friday 28th May, 7.30pm: Michael Law's Piccadilly Dance Orchestra presents 'Back to the Roaring Twenties'

Celebrate the new 'twenties' decade by stepping back into the 1920s – the freewheeling Charleston era of Flappers, Cocktails and Bright Young Things. Relish our selection of great songs, jazz and dance numbers, performed by the ten superb musicians of The Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, a fabulous female vocalist and The PDO's founder and band leader Michael Law.

Singin' in the Rain – Let's Do It – Charleston – Ain't Misbehavin' – Happy Feet – When You're Smiling – Henderson Stomp – Glad Rag Doll – If I Had a Talking Picture of You – Tea for Two – I'm Gonna Meet My Sweetie Now – Jubilee Stomp – I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover – You're the Cream in My Coffee

"absolutely terrific, wonderfully conceived and presented...the PDO is a bright spot in showbiz...keep it up." Julia McKenzie. Haslemere Hall, Tickets £17.50 and £15 (£12.50 on-line)



Saturday 29th May, 5.30pm and 7.30pm: "Spring into Musicals" by Imagine That Productions'

An light-hearted evening of Songs from the Shows performed by the vibrant Imagine That Productions, from "Singin' in the Rain, Chess & Evita through to Shrek, Wicked and Moulin Rouge, the talented ITP cast of all ages will entertain you.... there's

something for everyone!. Excellent local singers are trained by Philip O'Brien (@Haslemere Singing Studio) and are accompanied by Justin Luke (piano) and Catherine Lett (violin). Haslemere Hall Tickets £15 and £9 for under 16s.

Saturday 29th May, 2.30pm: The Gibbeting of the Hindhead Murderers

Samantha Priestley is a writer from Sheffield, whose recently published book, *The History of Gibbeting*, includes details of the Hindhead Murders. The book details how the three murderers were caught, hung, and then gibbeted, and the story of the Sailors Stone and why it was erected. This is a story of greed, robbery, murder, punishment, and hauntings!

Samantha is also the author of four novels, plays, articles, and essays. Haslemere Museum, £5



Bank Holiday Monday 31st May, 11am and 2.30pm: Room on the Broom and Other Stories With Julia Donaldson

Best-selling author Julia Donaldson acts out her stories and sings her songs with the help of her family (including guitar-playing husband

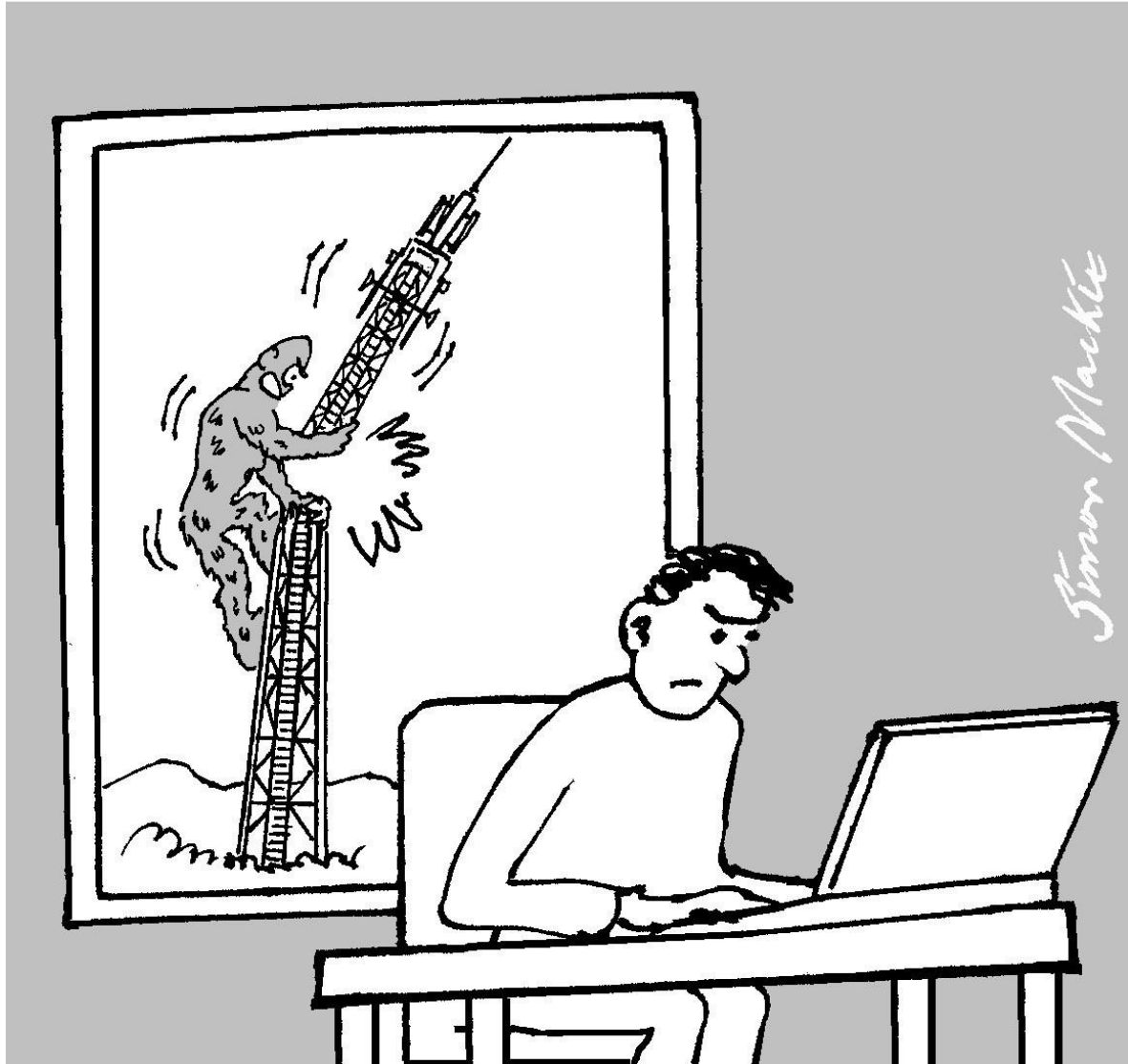
Malcolm) and the audience. The show features old favourites like *Room on the Broom* and *Zog*, as well as newer stories such as *The Giant Jumperee* and *The Go-Away Bird*. The Haslemere Bookshop will have a selection of Julia's books for sale at the venue, and Julia is happy to sign these after the show, accompanied by the Gruffalo. Haslemere Hall, £10



Bank Holiday Monday 31st May, 7.30pm: Memories of Flanders And Swann - A Gnother Musical Farrago

Michael Mates and William Godfree launched their Flanders and Swann tribute show in July 1996 and have since repeated the show the length and breadth of the country. Mates, in Donald Swann's own words 'The nearest thing to Flanders since Flanders' and Godfree, 'Utterly professional' will give us all the old favourites, plus some intriguing rarities from the F & S canon. At St Bartholomew's Church, tickets £17.50 include a glass of fizz. (£12.50 on-line)

Only in Haslemere...



As a protest against over zealous planning developers, the Beast of Blackdown wrecks the newly erected 22.5 meter 5g mast causing disruption to all home workers.

Can this be true?

